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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

pplication of:

Yoshiki Kitahara et al.

Serial No.: 09/853,455

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Examiner:

Group Art Unit: 2879

July 18, 2001

Irvine, California 92614

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In an attempt to fully comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicants wish to bring to the attention of the U.S. Patent Office the following references:

> Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 10-92377 (with English abstract)

Japanese Patent No. 2820864

Which is based on

U.S. Patent No. 5,357,167

Copies of these references and a form PTO 1449 are attached.

Also attached is the priority document, Japan 2000-140903, in accordance with 35 USC § 119.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on July 18, 2001, by Barbara O'Neill

Signature

July 18, 2001

Date of Signature

Very truly yours,

PRICE AND GESS

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